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Memorial Day virtual for a second year



Kay and Bob Williams helped to flag the Mount Hope Cemetery last weekend in preparation of Memorial Day.

PHOTOS BY MELINA BOURDEAU

Belchertown honors vets virtually

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff report

BELCHERTOWN – As part of a 15 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Belchertown Veterans Officer Charly Oliva held Memorial Day virtually, with small, socially distant gatherings.

Like last year, Belchertown Community Television created a video for people to watch online to celebrate Memorial Day.

Activities throughout the past two weeks in preparation of Memorial included flagging cemeteries, which Veterans' Graves Officer Vincent Viglioni and Assistant Veterans' Graves Officer

Kathy Wood take great pride doing.

Every year, the names of the veterans residing in the town's cemeteries are collected and each grave is flagged.

"People help us to do this every year," said Wood. "This year our granddaughter helped. It's a labor of love. (Vincent) and I are both veterans and both of us believe in this work."

Viglioni said he's proud to be able to flag cemeteries each year.

"I'm honored to do it," he said. "You see all the flags and they're so pretty. They look like they're waving at you, as if to say, 'Thank you.'"

Oliva said while the events might have been small, Memorial

See **MEMORIAL DAY**, page 7 •



Kathy Wood and Keith Poulin placed flags at Mount Hope Cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day

Quabbin towns veterans remembered

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Honoring the 83rd anniversary of the disincorporation of the Swift River Valley towns of Enfield, Dana, Prescott and Greenwich, historical societies, Friends of the Quabbin, local veterans groups and elected officials met at the Quabbin Park Cemetery in the rain on Sunday.

Belchertown American Legion Post 239 past Commander Keith Poulin began the ceremony.

"Like so many towns across the United States, the towns

of the Swift River Valley have over the years honored their war dead on Memorial Day until their own demise in 1938. Since then, the Quabbin Park Cemetery has become the center of the Memorial Day services for the towns," Poulin said. "Here along with loved ones, also lay bearing the very essence of the four towns and several villages that perished with the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir. Today we remember the veterans interred here on this special plot of land."

A wreath was placed at each

See **QUABBIN**, page 9 •



President of the Friends of the Quabbin, Gene Theroux, places a wreath during the Memorial Day ceremony in honor of the town of Greenwich.

SELECTBOARD

TM to be held in BHS

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff report

BELCHERTOWN – With a unanimous vote, the Selectboard opted to have the Annual Town Meeting inside of the Belchertown High School gym on Saturday, June 12 at 9 a.m.

In a Selectboard meeting last Wednesday, Town Administrator Gary Brougham said he has been in constant contact with the Quabbin Health District Director Stephen Bell.

"He was very supportive, I'm not saying it's going to be open without any precautions, we will still control the traffic, provide a section for anyone who chooses to be masked," he said. "There will be hand sanitizer. We will encourage traffic in one door and out the other."

He said the air in the gym can be exchanged in 10 minutes or less, and the windows and doors can be kept open.

See **TM**, page 3 •

NEWS

Beaver dam causes Gulf Rd. flooding

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – A beaver dam was the cause of Gulf Road flooding and shutting down last Friday.

Around 6:30 a.m. on Friday, it was reported a beaver dam to the rear of a residence on North Gulf Rd sent about five acres of water down the road when the dam failed, according to Belchertown Town Administrator Gary Brougham.

The water surged down Scarborough Brook into the pond at the Scarborough Brook Conservation area.

"The brook was overwhelmed, taking with it a massive chunk of the embankment, causing trees to topple and washing chunks of the road and guard rail with it," said Brougham.

See **FLOODING**, page 8 •



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COMMUNITY

Baker rescinds COVID-19 restrictions on May 29

State of emergency terminated effective June 15

BOSTON – Governor Charlie Baker joined Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy and Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders to sign an Executive Order terminating the Commonwealth’s State of Emergency effective June 15. The order also rescinds most COVID-19 restrictions, including limitations placed on businesses, as of tomorrow, May 29 as Massachusetts nears the goal of vaccinating four million residents. This week, the commonwealth passed the 3.5 million mark for fully vaccinated residents.

“Today marks an important milestone in our fight against COVID-19 here in the Commonwealth,” said Governor Baker. “Over the last 15 months, the residents of Massachusetts have shown an incredible amount of strength and resiliency, and we are pleased to take this step forward towards a return to normal.”

“With restrictions ending tomorrow and continued progress towards our vaccination goal, Massachusetts is on a path towards renewing our economy and returning to normal,” said Lt. Governor Polito. “We look forward to working with communities across the state to help them get their main streets and downtowns back up and running and

for a sustained recovery ahead.”

Effective May 29, all industries will be permitted to open. With the exception of remaining face-covering requirements for masks in public and private transportation systems, hospitals and other facilities housing vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions will be lifted at that time, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries. All gathering limits will also be rescinded.

To continue certain public health requirements, like requiring face coverings in certain settings, to remain effective past June 15, Governor Baker today issued a modified declaration of a public health emergency under the public health statute.

Under this order, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Health will be proposing to the Public Health Council the continuation of some public health orders in the coming weeks to maintain flexibilities and policies for vaccination, testing and other critical operations.

Earlier this week, Governor Baker filed legislation to extend certain emergency measures currently in place via executive orders that are set to expire on June 15 with the end of the State of Emergency. The bill would extend measures providing for a temporary suspension of certain open meeting law requirements, special permits for expanded outside dining at restaurants, and surprise billing protections for COVID-19 patients.

Summer concerts are back

GRANBY – The Friends of the Granby Elderly are bringing back its free Summer Concert Series.

To start the three Concert Series the Old Country Road Band with Director Ron Jackson on June 15. On July 20, the Dan Kane Singers will impress with their talented voices and Aug. 17 the great Johnny and the Flashbacks will finish the concert series.

All concerts will be held at the Dufresne Park, Kendall St. in Granby, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Please bring your chairs, refresh-

ments and bug spray. Remember to observe all COVID-19 restrictions that are applicable.

The Friends of Granby Elderly, Inc. is a non-profit organization and its main purpose is to provide support and entertainment for the Granby Council of Aging adult population and surrounding areas.

The Concert Series is supported by the Mass Cultural and Arts Council and the Granby Cultural and Arts Council.

For more information, call 413-467-3352.

Belchertown Farmers Market announces Market Manager

BELCHERTOWN – The 2021 Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market Season will kick off Sunday, June 13 and will run every Sunday through Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Belchertown Common.

Market Board President, Joyce Douthwright is pleased to announce the hiring of Brittini Robidoux as Market Manager for the 2021 season.

“We’re very excited about the Market this year. We have so many wonderful local farmers and artisans returning and several new vendors as well,” said Douthwright.

Robidoux and her family reside in Ware and have been frequent customers of the Belchertown Market.

“I have been a consumer at the market for a few years now and am so excited to be Market Manager for this year,” said Robidoux. “I am a mom of two little ones who always keep me on my toes. I’m passionate about local food, and shopping small business.”

Vendors this year include: Austin Brothers Valley Farm, Auntie Elsie’s Bakery, Cold Spring Soapery, Fortuna Artisan Crafts & Cookies, Grown Up Farm, Hope’s Tent, Ishkabbile Crafts, Kelley



Brittini Robidoux

Organic Farm, The Lavender Woods Farm, Lois’ Creations, Phoenix Fruit Farm, Rubbee Ranch, Shattucks Farm, Sir Barks-A-Lot Homemade Dog Treats and Summit Farm.

Be sure to follow Belchertown Farmers Market on Facebook and Instagram, and sign up for their newsletter to get all the latest updates and get to know their amazing vendors and wonderful products. Stay up to date on what the vendors will have to offer each week.



Catch basin cleaning

COURTESY PHOTO

BELCHERTOWN – Throughout May, the Department of Public Works in accordance with the EPA Stormwater NPDES Discharge Permit, is conducting catch basin cleaning throughout town.

“We anticipate cleaning approximately 550 basins which will bring the total cleaned this fiscal year to over 900 with an additional quarter of a mile of drain line cleaning,” said Steve Williams. “The total expenditure of just under \$80,000 will be paid for from the Town’s Stormwater Utility Budget.”

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RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

COMMUNITY

Lightning strike shuts down BCTV

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – While last week's thunderstorm may have been mild, a nearby lightning strike temporarily shut down Belchertown Community Television.

During a joint Finance Committee and Selectboard meeting, the nearby strike caused the meeting's livestream to be interrupted.

"We were immediately knocked off the air," said BCTV Manager Lew Louraine. "I got to the station about 7:30 p.m. and was able to restart some of the equipment but was not able to get BCTV back up and running."

The strike near the building disrupted the "delicate equipment."

"It was not fried but knocked out circuits and had to rebooted," Louraine said.

BCTV remained off air for Thursday.

As of Friday, May 28 Charter technicians confirmed that their

transmitters were "dead."

They were able to find two transmitters in Chicopee and were able to install one. Channel 191 is back online.

Channel 192 was not fixed until Tuesday, June 1 and Channel 193 continues to pop in and out.

As of Friday, BCTV reported:

- Channel 191 – fixed
- Channel 191 - streaming – fixed

- Channel 192 - waiting for parts which should arrive Tuesday, June 1

- Channel 193 - time line to fix unknown but currently popping in and out

- Internet Service - inside the building and outside to the "world" – fixed

- Charter will be installing a UPS for the three transmitters on Tuesday

BCTV can currently use GoToMeeting to go live on Channel 191 and to record to the Nexus for later broadcast on Channel 192.

"We've had lightning strikes in



the past before shut down the station and reboot," Louraine said. This is the first time equipment

has been broken by the electricity in the lines."

PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Belchertown Community Television experienced technical difficulties after a nearby lightning strike last Wednesday.

TM • from page 1

"I am confident we can conduct this safe and efficiently," Brougham said. "I wouldn't be so confident if we chose to go back to the auditorium where the air exchange isn't as easily obtained."

Selectboard member Nick Pucel said throughout the pandemic he's been deferring to the public health officials and would continue to do so.

"One stipulation is that if they come up with something that says full stop, we should reconsider, but if things keep going as it is I don't see any reason why we shouldn't," said Pucel.

At its meeting on May 24, Selectboard members discussed their desire to hold the meeting indoors.

Selectboard Chair Jennifer

Turner said the group met during that week to make a workable plan for an outdoor meeting, originally slated to be on the track.

The original plan included tents, portable toilets, two screens, speakers and microphones set up for 300 people to the tune of about \$17,000.

Selectboard member Jim Barry said considering the fact the state's state of emergency is going to be lifted the week after the Annual Town Meeting, he proposed going back inside.

"It's a lot cheaper I think," he said. "Considering the expense, the concern about the budget, the rate of vaccinations, considering we've been in the green in terms of new cases, I would propose going inside."

Turner said she recalled the town wasn't going to mandate masks, but she had concerns.

"A lot of people may have got-

ten their first vaccination, but not their second. One more meeting outside for everyone's complete safety, that's my opinion," Turners said. "I'm a strong advocate for one last meeting outside."

Selectboard member Ron Aponte said he agreed with Barry.

"I don't see an issue having 300 people in the gymnasium, I don't think we would have six feet, but I think we could do some pretty good spacing in the gym," Aponte said.

Selectboard member Ed Boscher said he was a proponent of an indoor meeting as well.

"I've been an advocate for being indoors since last year because the Board of Health said it was an acceptable venue," he said.

Brougham said he would prefer the meeting inside as well.

'Duets: Love Poems and Prayers' Poetry Reading

GRANBY – There will be a poetry reading of Stephanie Baird's "Duets: Love poems and prayers" on Thursday, June 3 at 6 p.m. via Zoom as well as in-person, masked, distanced attendance may be possible outdoors at the Granby Free Library.

Stephanie Baird released this first book of poetry in 2020, published by The Orchard Street Press. The COVID-19 Pandemic delayed the official kick-off reading. You are now invited to attend the inaugural 45-minute reading of this chapbook. Some of the original art in the book (by her spouse) will also be shared. There will be time for Q and A. Some of these poems are set in Granby, where

Baird has lived and loved (and been inspired) since 2006.

The positive depiction of Granby as a cauldron for the fermentation of this loving, long-term relationship and parenting endeavor, reinforces the rural and farming beauty of Granby as a supportive and vital community for committed partnership and creative family life. These poems will hopefully resonate with attendees, perhaps inspiring some to take up the pen, as well. One copy of the book will be randomly given to an attendee, and other copies will be available for purchase.

Please email granbypubliclibrary@gmail.com to register for attendance and check details.

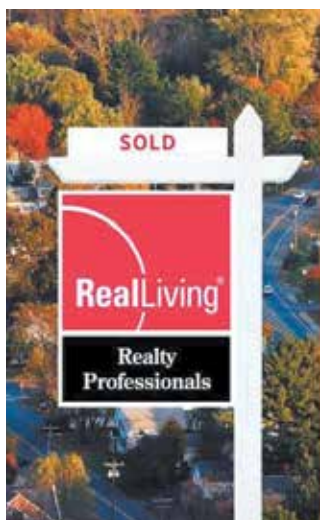


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The Clapp Memorial Library will reopen to limited public browsing on June 9.

COURTESY PHOTO

Clapp library reopens to public June 9

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library is happy to announce that the building will reopen for limited public browsing on June 9. For the immediate future, browsing, with capacity limits and social distancing, will take place by appointment during regular library hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Curbside pickup of materials will still be available on Mondays and Fridays. Library users will be allowed one half hour for browsing. Seating will not be available during this early phase, nor will newspapers. Due to size and configuration constraints, only one family

at a time will be allowed to use the Children's Room, by appointment. These procedures are in effect for the time being, but will change as we move into summer.

Entrance into the building will be through the side door facing the town parking lot. Exit will be through the front door only. To maintain a safe environment for all of our patrons, masks will be required inside the building. Individuals who cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition should call the library for more information.

Library materials are no longer subject to quarantine, and the book drop

will continue to be open 24 hours a day for the time being.

"Library staff has worked very hard these many months to continue to provide the best and safest library services that we can" said Library Director Sheila McCormick. "We are extremely appreciative of the wonderful support we have received from our town and our community of users, and we are excited to begin to welcome people back."

Questions can be answered by calling the Library at 413-323-0417.

Information is also available on the Library website at www.clapplibrary.org.

Knights to host scholarship golf tournament



COURTESY PHOTO

The Knights of Columbus Council will host its 11th annual scholarship golf tournament at the Mill Valley Golf links on June 13.

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Knights of Columbus Council 10698 will sponsor its 11th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on Sunday afternoon, June 13, at the Mill Valley Golf Links. This fundraiser contributes in part to the council's High School Scholarship fund for area High School Seniors aspiring to continue their education following graduation.

Registration Time is at 12 p.m. with

a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Cost per golfer is \$100, which includes 18 holes of golf, Cart, and Lunch "on the turn" with a free drink (alcohol or non alcohol). There will be door prizes and raffles along with awards for placement, closest to the pin, and longest drive. Also, there will be two hole-in-one contests: one to win a brand new car, and the other to win \$25,000.

A great opportunity to get out of the

house and enjoy a great day of golf, while contributing to the future education of today's youth.

To register, contact either Chair persons John Hawley at 413-575-0800 or med1275@charter.net or Rob Krafchuk at 413-244-3682 or rkrafchuk@aol.com. For more information, see the Belchertown Knights of Columbus Facebook event at www.facebook.com/belchertownkofc.

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Straw Dog Writers Guild plans June events

NORTHAMPTON – The Straw Dog Writers Guild will hold several online events in June. All events are free and open to the public. Following are the events and information on how to register.

June 6, 2 to 4 p.m., Writers Read/Hilltowns Open Mic with Featured Reader Howie Faerstein

Howie Faerstein, who lives in Florence, Mass., is the author of two chapbooks and two full-length poetry collections. He has been published in several literary journals and is a five-time Pushcart prize nominee. He volunteers at the Center for New Americans and is co-editor of CutThroat, A Journal of the Arts.

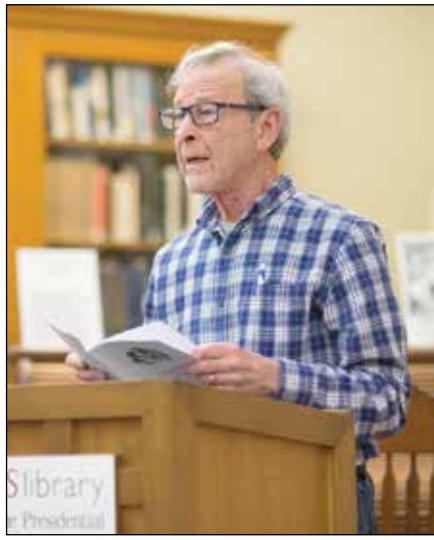
To attend, email Jane Roy Brown for a link to the event: brownjaneroy@gmail.com.

June 10, 6 p.m., The Poetry Ritual

On the three-year anniversary of the Poetry Critique Meet-up, co-sponsored by Straw Dog Writers Guild and the Northampton Center for the Arts, 20 poets who have participated in the meet-ups this past year will give short readings. For the Zoom link: poetryritual2021@gmail.com.

June 16, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Workshop: An Exploration of Flash Fiction and Flash Memoir with Joy Baglio

Flash takes everything about compelling short stories – the complexity, nuance, characters, emotion, tension, stakes – and delivers it in an impossibly short high-wire act that leaves readers deeply affected. This workshop will cover how to write, craft, and edit stories into these sparkling fictional or memoiristic gems. Writers will gain a better understanding of the flash form and will leave



STRAW DOG PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY
STRAW DOG WRITERS GUILD

Howie Faerstein, an author of numerous publications, will lead a program for the Straw Dog Writers Guild on June 6.

with the beginnings of two new pieces.

Joy Baglio is a fiction writer, editor, and founder of Pioneer Valley Writers' Workshop (www.pioneervalleywriters.org). Her short stories have appeared in American Short Fiction, Tin House, The Iowa Review and elsewhere. She has received fellowships and awards from Yaddo, Bread Loaf, the Vermont Studio Center, and Ploughshares. She holds an M.F.A. from The New School and lives in Florence, Mass.

Go to strawdogwriters.org to register.

June 19, 6 p.m., Black Writers Read: Juneteenth Edition

Members of Valley Society will come together to reflect on 365 days after the event that sparked the series, Black Writers Read. Watch live at www.facebook.com/valleysociety413 or via YouTube: Nicole M. Young's channel.

The Straw Dog Writers Guild, based in Northampton, is dedicated to the craft and transformative power of writing. Since 2010, it has served writers throughout the region through craft workshops, open mics, networking, writing residencies, scholarships and more. For more information, www.strawdogwriters.org.

Granby ATM to tackle fire chief settlement, bylaws

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

GRANBY – The Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 5 will be held in front of the Granby Jr/Sr High School at 9 a.m. to vote on 30 warrant articles.

Town Administrator Chris Martin explained each of the articles.

Article one and its subsections are a consent agenda to vote on "routine business" such as allowing the town to apply for grant funding, pay employees, etc.

Article two proposes to rescind unspent money that was borrowed for the East Meadow School addition/renovation.

Articles three and four propose to settle the ongoing matter of the former Granby Fire Chief John Mitchell who was terminated in July 2020 and has been in litigation with the town.

Article three proposes to pay a settlement of \$225,000.

"According to the strong chief law, the chief will remain the chief until he resigns, retires, turns 65, dies or is fired (for just cause)," Martin said. "This article will allow us to close litigation (with Mitchell.) Until we reach a settlement, he is still the fire chief."

Article four proposes to rescind the strong fire chief law Granby voters adopted in 1968.

"This is good and bad," Martin said. "The bad part is that under this law, until a chief retires, resigns, turns 65, is fired for just cause or dies they are still chief. The reason we want to get rid of it is that there is no oversight – hiring, firing – it's whatever the Selectboard wants to do with the department. The reason why we went with the strong chief in the first place was to keep politics out of it."

Martin said his hope is that the town can move forward with a weak chief for the time being and potentially go back to a

strong chief in the future.

Voters will decide whether to fund tree removal in town for \$100,000 – which is the third year of such appropriation, Martin said. These trees are ones that have been affected by gypsy moths and other invasive species.

Article six proposes to fund highway paving operations for \$200,000. Article seven proposes to fund the construction of a veterans' memorial for \$50,000. Article eight proposes to fund two students to go to Smith Vocational School.

Article nine and 10 propose purchases for a new vehicle for the Fire Department and a cruiser for the Police Department.

Another proposed appropriation will be for \$291,500 for a new communication system which will replace a two-way radio system currently being used, Martin said.

Voters will also determine whether to fund the purchase of a truck with a plow, a single person lift, a snow blower attachment for a mower that was purchased last fiscal year, a mower, a loader and a tractor.

Articles 18 through 20 propose to transfer funds in three different stabilization accounts.

Article 21 proposes to fund the purchase of a pick up truck for the School Department.

Articles 22 through 28 propose the town to allow transfers or appropriations for items including operating the municipal solid waste department, the ambulance department and others.

Proposing to amend the zoning bylaw, if adopted, article 29 will allow the installation of solar panels above parking lots.

Article 30 proposed to amend the town's Bylaws.

To read a copy of the warrant go to https://www.granby-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4466/f/pages/fy22atmwarrant-w_consent_v-2.pdf.

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The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for the full-time position of Assistant Town Clerk. This position provides the necessary administrative and clerical support to assist the Town Clerk in performing the duties of the office, and acts as the Town Clerk in his/her absence. This position requires a high level of attention to detail and utilizes good judgement. Working knowledge of municipal government, state statutes and bylaws relating to the duties of the Town Clerk's office is highly desirable.

A job description for this position and an employment application are available by calling the Select Board's Office (413-323-0403) during regular business hours. The deadline to apply is 4:00 p.m. on June 17, 2021.

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OPINION

IN THE GARDEN

Early June spotlights specimen perennials

The crazy heat we had for nearly two weeks straight pushed a lot of June perennials ahead. Then, the cold rain came and has them in a holding pattern. As I write, my peonies are budded up and I am crossing my fingers that they will bloom for my early June birthday. Read on to learn about peonies and two other plants known as specimen perennials.



The word “specimen” has its own definition in horticultural terms. Specimen plants are special, prized for their ability to can stand alone in a border or foundation planting. They don’t need to be planted in a group of similar or differing plants to look their best. Simply put, one is enough! These types of plants are also known to be extremely hardy and long-lived. Nineteenth century gardeners must have certainly been aware of these attributes. The patterned beds in the Salem Towne garden at Old Sturbridge Village highlight three specimen perennials that bloom in June: Gas plant, baptisia and peony.

Gas plant (*Dictamnus albus*) is probably the least known of the three. Stems are deep green and stiff, and even at close to three feet do not require staking. White flowers are borne on terminal spikes and are unique in that two of their five petals bend down to show-off stamens that curve skyward. The common name for this plant comes from the volatile oil that is given off by the flowers and in its seed pods, and can theoretically be ignited on a calm evening. In fact, William Prince’s catalog of 1831 notes that “this plant exhales inflammable gas!” I have also learned first hand that the seed pod causes “photodermatitis.” Exercise caution when working close to this plant or you too may end up with a star shaped burn on your skin!

Gas plant is tough to propagate. It is rarely successful when divided, and seeds need to be stratified before being sown. Then they may take a good year or more to germinate and another couple of years for the plants to get to size.

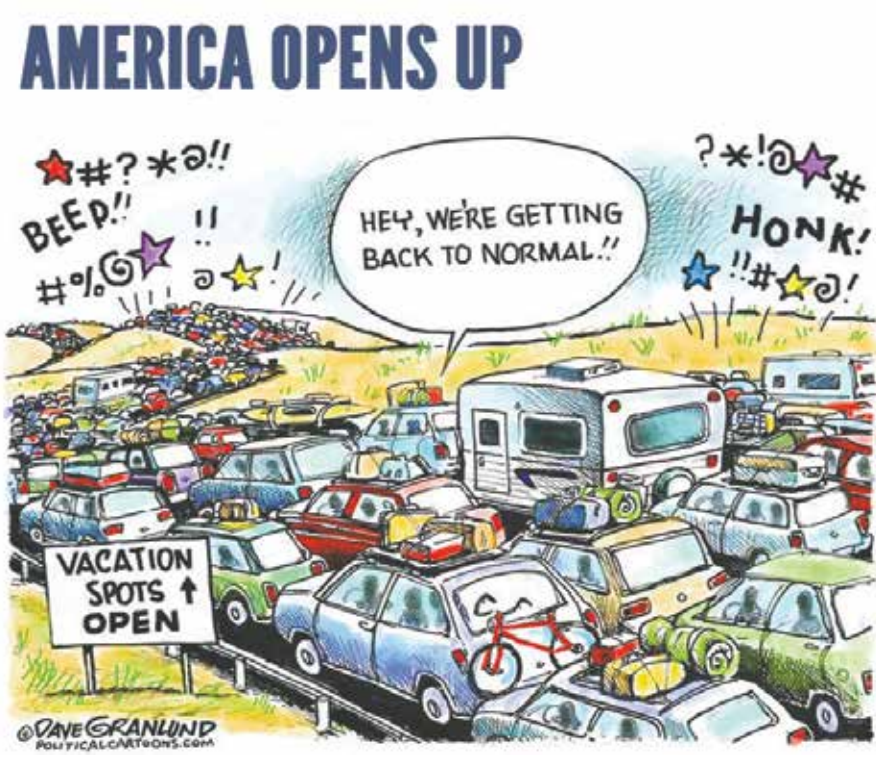
Baptisia (*B. australis*), commonly known as false indigo, is another specimen that shines in June. The plant is reminiscent of lupine and suggests a family relation to other legumes. Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes that emerge in mid-month. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, one plant is certainly enough per grouping. The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually tiny and take a couple of seasons to establish. Site false indigo in full sun or partial shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised. Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.

My favorite specimen of all is saved for discussion last: the peony. Perhaps I am biased because I grew up with a division of my Babci’s (Grandmother’s) plant in my childhood garden. Frilly and bubblegum pink, this flower was always cut and put in a vase just in time for my birthday! The variety we had was likely ‘Monsieur Jules Elie’ introduced in 1888, and available in nearby New York in 1917. ‘Festiva Maxima’ is the white splashed red flowered variety grown at the Towne garden as well as in my home landscape these days, alongside a division of Babci’s plant.

Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day for your peony. If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers. An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will promote good flowers.

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless staking makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished. Middle weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively. Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don’t tighten so much that it looks unnatural.

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis. Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies



LETTERS

Give the ‘Green’ Light to the Belchertown Green Grid Program

Letter to the editor

As part of the Energy and Sustainability Committee, the “Green Grid” subcommittee has been evaluating options to provide Belchertown households and businesses a cleaner sourced electricity supply. The goal is to maximize renewable energy content at an affordable rate.

Programs such as Community Choice Aggregation and Green Municipal Aggregation have been used to accomplish this. Residents and small businesses participate at the community level, combining their purchasing power to buy energy with a higher renewable content from a competitive supplier at a bulk rate, commonly at a cost lower than the National Grid supply rate. Neighboring Towns that have done this include Hadley, Leverett, Deerfield, New Salem, as well as Great Barrington, Lenox, Shelburne, Colrain, and Charlton. Amherst is actively working on a GMA program.

The first step in this process is approval through Town Meeting to allow the Select Board to pursue an aggregation program through an energy broker. This will be on the Warrant in the upcoming Town Meeting on Saturday, June 12. With a positive vote,

the Town will solicit an energy broker to provide options acceptable to the Town, having both cost and environmental saving benefits. Once the aggregation plan from the broker is approved by the Selectboard and state, residents and businesses not already on a competitive sourced supply are enrolled with options to participate – typically a lower cost, lower renewable energy content option and a higher (up to 100%) renewable content at a price competitive with the National Grid supply rate and lower than individual competitive green supply rates. Those who do not want to participate can choose to opt out.

Refer to the Belchertown Energy and Sustainability webpage through the www.belchertown.org site for more information on the Green Grid program including frequently asked questions and features and benefits. The Green Grid program is one of the easiest and inexpensive things that Town residents and businesses can do to lower their impact on the environment. Give the “Green” light to go - with the Belchertown Green Grid program.

John Piekara
Belchertown Energy and Sustainability Committee

Town Moderator Agenda

Letter to the Editor

In the May 20 issue of the Sentinel there was an article recapping the Town Election results. In this article it referenced the fact that the present Belchertown Town Moderator will appoint a Finance Committee member due to Mr. Aponte winning a seat on the Belchertown Selectboard.

I have concerns with this moderator’s input to this process. This is the same moderator who at last years’ annual town meeting was later the subject of discussion by the Selectboard, letters to the Selectboard, social media and letters to the Editor of the Sentinel.

Vincent Viglione

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Should my wife wait until age 70 to claim?

RUSSELL GLOOR
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I’m 74 and receiving my Social Security benefits. My wife is 68, and we are delaying her benefits until she’s 70. But I read an article about a wife receiving half of her husband’s benefit, which makes me wonder if my wife waiting is smart. Please let me know your thoughts. Signed: Wondering

Dear Wondering: Your wife waiting until she is 70 to claim her own Social Security retirement benefit may be a smart move, but only if her age 70 benefit will be more than the benefit she is already entitled to as your spouse. Her benefit as your spouse is 50% of the benefit you were entitled to at your full retirement age (66). She would get that 50% because she has

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Belchertown, Granby & Amherst
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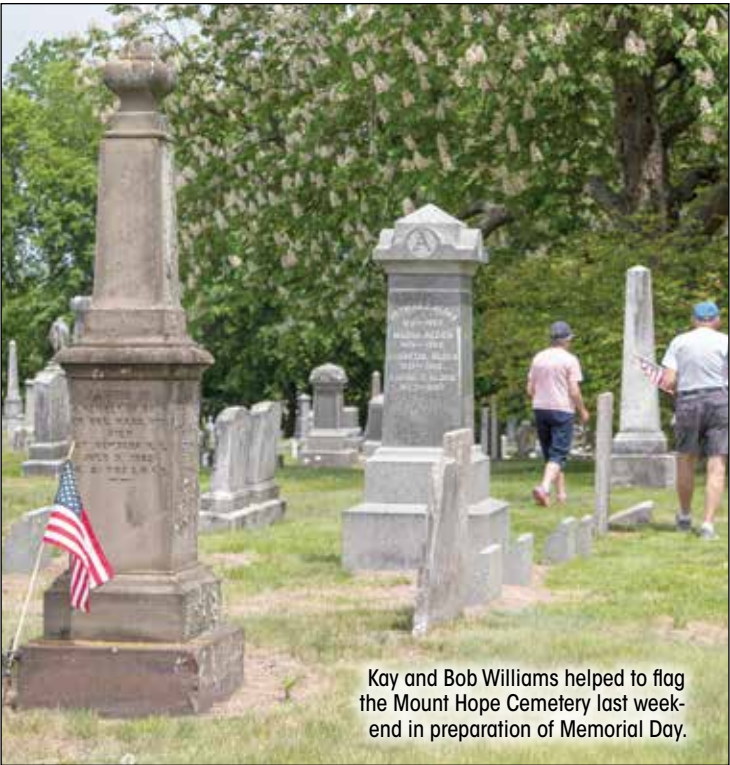
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Belchertown Veterans Officer Charly Oliva and her husband Ben Oliva helped to flag the Mount Hope Cemetery as part of the virtual Memorial Day ceremony.



Kay and Bob Williams helped to flag the Mount Hope Cemetery last weekend in preparation of Memorial Day.

MEMORIAL DAY • from page 1

Day activities still honored Belchertown’s veterans who died serving their country.

“For countless families across the nation, Memorial Day is a stark and often painful reminder of those who were never afforded the opportunity to be honored as veterans for their service to our country,” Oliva wrote in her speech. “Their sacrifice is a true expression of selfless service – one that no one would pick for themselves.”

Oliva also shared a story about a soldier who died while serving, Army Sergeant 1st Class Alwyn Cashe, who will become the first Black service member to receive a Medal of Honor for his actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. He died after his vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Iraq.

While the vehicle was on fire, Cashe acted quickly. “Drenched in fuel, he pulled the driver, who was still on fire, from the burning vehicle. Once those flames were put out, he returned to the (vehicle) only to have fire catch on his gas-soaked uniform,” Oliva said. “By the time he got each of the six other soldiers out alive, more than 70% of his body was covered in second- and third-degree burns.”

Four of the soldiers died, as well as Cashe.

“We may not know what was going through his mind, but we know Sergeant 1st Class Alwyn Cashe loved his soldiers,” Oliva said. “The harsh reality of war and military service in general, is that that everyone will make it home. Let us honor the memory of heroes no longer with us.”



During the virtual Memorial Day event, the Cub Scouts did their pledge.



Peter Thorp places a flag at a grave in Mount Hope Cemetery. PHOTOS BY MELINA BOURDEAU



Josh Annis, 9, Helen Bierly, 7, Sebastian Johnson and Addison Carey, 8, were all part of the Cub Scout Pack involved in the virtual Memorial Day events.

Belchertown Selectboard announces vacancies

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Selectboard is looking for citizens interested in sharing their expertise by serving on a town board/committee. If you have time and are interested in getting involved in your Town’s activities, please submit a letter of interest to: Selectboard, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to selectmen@belchertown.org (unless otherwise indicated below). The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Communications Committee: The town wishes to fill two full member seats on the Communications Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop a communication plan for the Town of Belchertown to improve information flow from the Town to the public. The deadline is June 25.

Council on Aging: The town wishes to fill an anticipated vacancy on the Council on Aging. Members of the Council on Aging coordinate programs and services for the elderly population and oversee the Belchertown Senior Center. The deadline has been extended to June 25.

Cultural Council: The town wishes to fill two anticipated vacancies on the Cultural Council. The Cultural Council promotes an appreciation of the arts and culture by participating in the development and administration of funds for local cultural activities. The deadline 12 p.m. on June 25.

Family Center Committee: The town is seeking to fill two anticipated vacancies on the Family Center Committee. This committee sets policy and procedures, and oversees the Belchertown Family Center. The deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on June 25.

Historic District By-Law Commission: The town wishes to fill an associate member seat (non-voting) and an at-large (full member) seat on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic

See **VACANCIES**, page 13 •

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FLOODING • from page 1

Part of Gulf Rd and part of Rt. 9 were closed throughout the day Friday.

Department of Public Works Director Steve Williams said upon the arrival of Conversation Administer Erica Cross arrived on scene, it was determined that there was no human involvement in the incident.

“There doesn’t seem to be any human intervention with the dam failure, it was a natural dam failure,” Williams said. “It’s pretty rare you would see (a dam) fail like this on a sunny morning but we did have some rain on Wednesday it came on the heels of two weeks with no rain. Sometimes beavers abandon dams and they last for years, other times they rot and fall apart – that’s probably what happened here.”

“It’s an environmental situation at this point,” Brougham said. “Beavers are a protected species. Being familiar with the region, Gulf Rd is a headway to the Daigle Well, a primary source of drinking water for Belchertown and the Scarborough Brook has historically held a population of native brook trout. The brook flow path and environmental significance have perhaps been permanently scarred.”

Williams said the department was able to respond on scene and begin to make temporary repairs after the water receded.

“We spent most of the day making repairs to keep traffic going through,” he said. “We’ve been monitoring it over the weekend and in the next weeks making permanent repairs in areas we can and assessing our options.”

He said the work will be ongoing for “a few months.”

“Our primary goal is to keep access to homes in the area and make sure emergency vehicles can get in and out and it’s possible for traffic,” Williams said.

Williams said he’s not sure where the department is going to find the funding to repair the road, but the work will involve resurfacing, slope repairs and other work. Williams estimates the cost will be at least \$100,000.



Belchertown Department of Public Works employees worked to do temporary repairs to Gulf Rd last Friday after the road was flooded due to a beaver dam breaking.

“We will have the remainder of the construction season to do what we have to do,” Brougham said. “We may be able to get this recognized as an emergency and maybe get emergency funding, but that has yet to be determined.”

A robocall was placed on Friday informing people of the incident and the road closure.

The Belchertown Conversation Commission, Belchertown Fire Department, Belchertown Water District, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Massachusetts Department of Emergency Management and the Massachusetts State Police were involved in the incident.

Williams said he was very proud of his staff who worked to get the roads back open on Friday.

“(Gulf Road) was hit it pretty good, I would ask people be patient with this process and understand we’re not dragging our feet, it’s going to be a process,” Williams

said. “Especially before holiday weekend, it’s not what we wanted to deal with but feel free to call the DPW if you have questions/concerns.”



Gulf Rd in Belchertown was temporarily flooded after a beaver dam broke early Friday morning.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Partner to “flows”

5. French industrial city

9. Diagrams

11. Diplomat

13. Hires

15. Hawaiian island

16. Set aflame

17. Very happy

19. Blue dye

21. Small terrier with short legs

22. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)

23. Northern pike genus

25. Expression of annoyance

26. Female deer

27. Casella and Kellerman are two

29. Actor’s lines to audience

31. Days (Spanish)

33. Close a person’s eyes

34. Cloaked

36. Comedic actor Rogen

38. It’s all around us

39. Neutralizes alkalis

41. Native people of New Mexico

43. No seats available

44. Famed “Air Music” composer

46. Fit of irritation

48. Psychic phenom-ena

52. Knicks’ first-rounder

53. Seed used in cooking

54. “WandaVision” actress Hahn

56. Samples food

57. In a lucid way

58. Stair part

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of moth

2. A Christian sacrament

3. It lends books to Bostonians (abbr.)

4. Turn away

5. Impersonal

6. Shortly

7. Indigenous Alaskans

8. Subtle difference of meaning

9. Sicilian city

10. Put in harmony

11. Administrative divisions

12. As happily

14. Horse mackerel

15. Muddy or boggy ground

18. Monetary unit of Italy

20. Construction site machine

24. 22

26. Tracts at the mouths of rivers

28. Earnings

30. Insect repellent

32. Runner-up

34. Musician

35. Serious or urgent

37. Esteemed one

38. Where rockers play

40. Work furniture

42. Greek prophetesses

43. Quantitative fact

45. Missing soldiers

47. Minute

49. This (Spanish)

50. Maintain possession of

51. Assault with a knife

55. Holiday text message greeting

IN THE GARDEN • from page 6

down to the ground. Haul them off to the trash, don’t compost. If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant’s base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry. Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well.

Plant specimen perennials in your land-

scape for years of enjoyment.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

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A Memorial Day ceremony was held in the Quabbin Park Cemetery last Sunday to honor the veterans of the four Quabbin towns.

QUABBIN • from page 1

monument at the park, one for each of the town and one in front of the Schmidt bench.

Belchertown Veterans' Agent Charly Oliva read the poem "In Flanders Fields" and Belchertown High School student Haley Bronson read the Gettysburg address.

Local elected officials Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren), Rep. Susannah Whipps, and Rep. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) spoke during the ceremony.

Gobi said she wanted to recognize the working being done to restore gravestones in the park, building work and digitizing archive information.

"We appreciate the work you do here and making sure the perpetual care promised to the families is being upheld," Gobi said.

She also recognized Belchertown resident Les Campbell and Ware resident Cindy Labombard, both of whom died in 2020.

"Two people you typically see when you think about the Quabbin – Les Campbell who devoted more than 70 years of his life to the Quabbin Reservoir," Gobi said. There is currently a bill going through the state legislature to rename the Quabbin Visitors' Center after Campbell and his wife. "Soon before long that the Quabbin Visitors' Center will be known as the Les and Terry Campbell Visitor's Center."

She said Labombard was one of the first people the legislatures would see when they arrived at ceremonies such as the Memorial Day Ceremony.

"On days like this she'd have coffee ready, if it was 90 degrees she would have water for you," Gobi said. "I think about those two today as well and they would have been the first to talk about the sacrifice and the service of the men and women we honor today."

Smola said he wanted to thank the members of the historical societies and attendees of the event.

"The last year has been a challenging year for so many reasons for all of us, but never more so for the veteran men and



Belchertown American Legion Post 239 past Commander Keith Poulin presented the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance at the Memorial Day ceremony in the Quabbin Park Cemetery.

women, who very sadly have been added to the rolls of this Memorial Day ceremony because of the circumstances of this pandemic," Smola said.

He also recognized the essential workers who helped to make sure people had what they needed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whipps said she wanted to recognize Gold Star families.

"The mothers, fathers, spouses, siblings, children that didn't have someone come home and today I want to thank them for the sacrifice they have made," Whipps said.

Oliveira said he wanted to express his gratitude to those who died fighting for the United States.

"The Gold Star families are the ones that carry on the legacy of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. One of my good friends, someone I graduated high school with in 2004, passed away in Afghanistan," he said.

"On days like today, when we're paying tribute to people, Josh Laforge, my friend who I lost is someone I think about... Please remember we have a responsibility to remember those veterans who paid that sacrifice and didn't come back."



Belchertown High School band members Zach Stowe-Alekman and Andrew Cowles played taps at the Quabbin Park Cemetery Memorial Day event.



Jane and Peter Peirce placed a wreath in honor of the town of Prescott.



Belchertown Veterans Agent Charly Oliva read "In Flanders Fields" at the Memorial Day ceremony last Sunday.



Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) spoke about two residents that died in 2020, Les Campbell and Cindy Labombard.



PHOTOS BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Rep. Susannah Whipps (I-Athol) said she wanted to recognize the Gold Star families.



Placing a wreath at the Schmidt bench were the Jim Boyko family members.



Belchertown High School student Haley Bronson reads the Gettysburg Address at the Memorial Day ceremony in the Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Members of the Crowther family places a wreath in honor of the town of Enfield.

POLICE LOG

Belchertown Police Log

Editor’s note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of May 19 through May 25. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 349 calls police responded to, there were four incidents, four accidents, five arrest/summons and 11 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Saturday, May 22

1:03 p.m. – A Belchertown man was arrested on an abuse prevention order violation.

Monday, May 24

3:05 p.m. – A 20 year old Belchertown man was issued a summons for attaching plates, uninsured vehicle and an unregistered motor vehicle. An individual came to the police department for an appointment of a firearms license. The officer noticed they didn’t have a plate on the vehicle, the person reported said it was supposed the right one, but it was not. The person reported they sold the vehicle and had the old registration on it. The person was issued a criminal complaint and a towing company was contacted to tow

the vehicle.
10:54 p.m. – Trevor James Russell, 18, of 338 Ware Rd in West Warren, was arrested for marked lanes violation, operating under the influence of liquor and a marked lanes violation. An officer received a report of a party driving erratically on State St. A vehicle fitting the description was seen driving north. The calling party was driving behind the vehicle. The officer observed the vehicle which had a hard time maintaining marked lanes and both tires travelled over the double yellow line. An officer stopped the vehicle. The operator had bloodshot, glossy eyes and was reported slurring their words. After failing their field sobriety test, the suspect was placed under arrest. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, May 19

2:02 a.m. – An officer responded to a residence to aid with a juvenile having a problem with their mental health.
2:18 p.m. – A found firearms license at the Pride Station was turned over to the police. The owner of the card said they would pick it up after work.
4:53 p.m. – An officer took a report of unemployment fraud.
9:17 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on Amherst Rd. An vehicle travelling east on Amherst Rd struck a deer. The operator said they were unable to stop. There was damage to the front bumper of the vehicle.

Thursday, May 20

6:23 a.m. – Officers responded to an accident on Maple and North Main St. mv one left hand turn lane on south main street heading north pedestrian toward maple and amin side of the road. As the vehicle turned onto maple the pedestrians in the cross-walk, vehicle struck pedestrian. Treated by fire/paramedics. They said they didn’t push the button as they thought traffic was light. Transported to hospital with minor injuries.
11:03 a.m. – Officer to the basketball court on State St reported by the parks and recreation department. Two bathroom doors on graffiti on them with derogatory statements on them. padlock to the bathroom was broke. The estimate \$300 to repair it. cope of report to SRO and photos attached to report.
6:39 p.m. – Officer took report of a vehicle damaged a car wash with a trailer attached. Photos were taken party identified and insurance company was contacted.

Friday, May 21

8:24 a.m. – Officers received a report of a juvenile who assaulted another juvenile. Belchertown fire/paramedics responded to evaluate and assess reported injuries. A report was filed with DCF. The involved juvenile was issued a summons.
4:59 p.m. – Officers responded to a report of an accident on Ware Rd.
A vehicle was stopped on the roadway for a turtle in the road when a second vehicle attempted to pass the first. A trash truck

heading in the opposite direction, caused the second vehicle to stay in the lane. Unable to stop, the second vehicle struck the first vehicle. The second vehicle was towed from the scene.

Saturday, May 22

7:43 a.m. – An officer spoke with individual regarding their neighbors’ noise.

Monday, May 24

12:48 p.m. – An officer took a report of unemployment fraud.

Tuesday, May 25

1:04 p.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.
7:01 p.m. – An officer responded to a Federal St for a report of someone that was bitten by a dog. There were reported injuries and Belchertown Fire responded with an ambulance on scene. The victim was identified and spoke with officers. They the dog ran to the front of the yard and attacked the party. The animal control officer responded on scene and spoke with the victim. The dog owners arrived on scene. They were advised to get records for the animal control officer and told they needed to quarantine the dog within the home. The victim denied transportation to the hospital.
10 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on South St. A vehicle traveling on South St when the operator said they looked down at cell phone, causing them to strike a pole. No injuries were remoted and no tow was necessary.

SSI • from page 6

already reached her own full retirement age (FRA), but your wife’s spousal benefit doesn’t grow beyond what she’s entitled to at her FRA. Her own Social Security retirement benefit, however, grows by .667% per month until she is 70, at which point it reaches maximum (32% more than her FRA benefit amount). So, the question is, which will be higher: her spouse benefit, or her age 70 benefit? If the answer is her spousal benefit, then she should claim that now. But if the answer is her age 70 benefit, waiting until she is 70 makes more sense.
There is, however, another option which would work even better if your wife’s own benefit at age 70 will be her highest. Since you are already collecting, and because

your wife was born in 1953, she is eligible to file a “restricted application for spousal benefits only.” Doing so would allow her to collect her 50% spouse benefit from you now, while still allowing her own Social Security retirement benefit to grow to maximum at age 70. That would give your wife half of your FRA benefit amount each month, while she simultaneously maximizes her own Social Security retirement benefit. Then at age 70, when her personal benefit reaches maximum, she can switch to her own higher benefit. I suggest that your wife get a Statement of Estimated Benefits from Social Security to determine if her age 70 benefit will be higher than her spouse benefit. If so, she can file the “restricted application for spouse benefits only” and then simply wait until she is 70 to switch from her spouse benefit to her

own higher benefit (32% more than her FRA amount).
Note that this “restricted application for spouse benefits only” option is no longer available to anyone born after January 1, 1954, but is still available to your wife because she was born before that. Unless her spousal benefit will be her highest, I suggest that your wife file the “restricted application for spouse benefits only” which will give her 50% of your FRA benefit amount (including COLA awarded since then). She should also ask for 6 months retroactive spouse benefits since she was eligible to do this at her FRA.
The easiest way for your wife to get her Statement of Estimated Benefits is by using her personal “My Social Security” online account. If she doesn’t yet have an online account with Social Security, it is easy to

create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. She will need that account anyway to apply for her benefits online, which is by far the most efficient way to apply.
This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.
Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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Outfielder Isabella Cauley throws the ball back to the infield.

Emma Piedade gets in position to field a grounder to center.

Gina Camerota fields a grounder.



First baseman Olivia Plate catches the out to end the inning.

Softball team falls at Ludlow

LUDLOW – The Belchertown High School softball team has a 2-3 record to start the 2021 spring season. The girls suffered a tough setback last Monday afternoon, losing on the road at Ludlow High School. The Orioles’ wins this season were against Holyoke and South Hadley.



PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Pitcher Olivia Lafayette tosses during the fourth inning.

Rams win battle of undefeated

TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

WARE – Granby and Ware entered their first meeting of the regular season as the only remaining undefeated baseball teams in the Bi-County League.

The Rams kept their perfect season hopes alive by posting a 10-0 shutout victory over the Indians at historic Memorial Field in Ware, last Monday night, May 24. The game ended following the sixth inning due to the 10-run mercy rule.

“You never know what’s going to happen in a baseball game,” said Granby varsity coach Jim Woods. “Tonight’s game could’ve gone either way.”

The Rams (6-0), who pounded out a total of 16 hits, were led offensively by senior third baseman Nolan Sullivan, who had three base hits and two RBIs. Five other Granby players had two hits in the game.

“Everyone got involved offensively from top to bottom, which was nice to see,” Woods added. “Our starting pitcher also did an outstanding job. We just played a great game tonight.”

Junior righthander Ryan Gaughan, who has been a member of the Rams varsity baseball team since the eighth grade, went the distance allowing no runs on five hits, which were all singles. He issued two walks and struck out six.

“Ware was undefeated, and they had their best pitcher on the mound, so we were expecting it to be a close game,” said Gaughan, who improved his



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM
Connor Asselin fields a grounder.



Ray Toth throws to first for an out.

See RAMS, page 12 •

MUTINY PICK UP FIRST WIN

LUDLOW – On May 22, the Mutiny won its first game of the season with the help of a lot of offense. The Mutiny defeated Connecticut Rush 6-1. Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, and Lily Fabian, of Monson, had goals. Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, provided an assist in the win.



Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, looks to deke around an opponent.



Lauren Berman, of South Hadley, possesses the ball.



Charlotte Maurer passes the ball away.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM
Jessica Mazo attempts a shot on goal.



Lily Fabian, of Monson, goes for the header.

Bay State Summer Games returning this year

WOBURN – The Bay State Games are pleased to announce that after the cancellation of all 2020 Summer Games events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, plans are well underway to hold over two dozen sports at the 39th annual Games this Summer.

“The last live Bay State Games event was held on March 1, 2020,” said Bay State Games Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. “For the past several months we have been monitoring state protocols and working with our venue partners with hope that we could host events this summer. The recent updates by the EEA regarding youth and adult amateur sport activities will allow us to proceed with many of our events. We are excited to be able to provide opportunities for athletes who have waited, in some cases for over a year, to participate in the sports they love.

While many events will proceed, the athlete experience and format may be different in 2021 as policies will be implemented to ensure the safety of all athletes,

coaches, officials, and spectators. “We are working with event organizers, sport governing bodies, individual venues, local boards of health, and the Bay State Games medical team to develop safety protocols for each event,” said Cummings. Protocols for each sport will be available on the Bay State Games website.

The first live event to return will be Figure Skating on June 12 at the Nashoba Valley Olympia Rink in Boxborough. Normally held in the Winter Games in the Berkshires, this event was postponed due to COVID-19. Over 340 skaters will participate under strict mask and social distancing guidelines. Showcase sport try-outs in baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball will take place at statewide venues throughout the month of June with competitions held in July. After the cancellation of the 2020 Summer Games, Bay State Games has also adjusted the eligibility requirements to allow graduating seniors to compete in

the showcase sports. In order to be eligible, the senior must have either already competed in Bay State Games in the past or have been registered for the 2020 Summer Games prior to its cancellation. All showcase sports, except baseball, may qualify for the team using this eligibility requirement.

Many individual sports are also confirmed with events in archery, pickleball, shooting sports, weightlifting, and others.

Plans are currently underway to confirm venues for additional sports including swimming, track & field, badminton, footgolf, fencing, and others. Discussions continue regarding high-risk sports, such as rugby, wrestling, and judo. A decision on these events should be made shortly.

For more information on all sports in the 2021 Summer Games and links to online registration, go to www.baystategames.org. For questions email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Falmouth Road Race to resume, event set for Aug. 15

FALMOUTH – Falmouth Road Race, Inc., organizers of the 49th Annual ASICS Falmouth Road Race, one of America’s premier running events of the summer season, today announced that it will host a field of 8,000 in-person runners for its upcoming event on Sunday, Aug. 15.

Those who registered during the initial registration window and selected, “If given the chance, I would like to run in Falmouth” will be guaranteed a place within the limited in-person field. Runners who have not yet registered but are looking to secure a guaranteed in-person spot in this year’s event can do so by registering to run on behalf of a charity. A comprehensive list of 164 charitable organizations is available by visiting www.falmouthroadrace.com/charity-program. For more information on general registration, please visit [roadrace.com.

“On the heels of Governor Charlie Baker’s announcement lifting all coronavirus restrictions in Massachusetts effective May 29, and after close consultation with the Town of Falmouth, public safety officials, our medical team, and our partners, we are excited to announce a field of 8,000 in-person runners for the 49th ASICS Falmouth Road Race,” said Scott Ghelfi, president of the Falmouth Road Race, Inc. Board of Directors. “We are excited to welcome athletes back to Falmouth for this summer tradition and we look forward to welcoming a full field for our 50th running next August.”

Aside from the newly announced in-person portion, the 49th ASICS Falmouth Road Race will still feature a virtual](http://www.falmouth-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

See ROAD RACE, page 13 •



Colin Kennedy comes off the bag to catch a throw.

RAMS • from page 11

record to 2-0. “This is the first time that we’ve beaten Ware since I’ve been a member of the varsity baseball team and it just feels great.”

Gaughan was in the seventh grade when Granby defeated Ware, 6-5, in the Western Mass. Division 4 semifinals at Earl Lorden Field located on the UMass-Amherst campus.

Gaughan didn’t allow any earned runs in his first start of the season against Hampshire Regional.

“Ryan’s first two starts of the season have been very good,” Woods said. “He hasn’t given up an earned run yet. We’ve had four different starting pitchers in our first six games.”

The other three Granby starting pitchers are junior Connor Asselin, junior Collin Kennedy, and Sullivan, who’ll be playing college baseball at Nichols College next year.

The Indians had a 7-1 overall record following last Monday’s loss against the Rams.

“Granby came here and just outplayed us,” said Ware varsity coach Scott Slattery. “They were the better team tonight and I tip my hat to them. This was a good learning experience for my guys.”

Ware senior righthander Keith Smith gave up seven runs on 14 hits in 4 2/3 innings. He threw 119 pitches before trading places with junior Andrew Soltys, who was the Indians starting shortstop. Soltys,

who’s a righty, hurled the final 1 1/3 allowing three runs on two hits.

The Rams hit a leadoff triple in each of the first three innings, which is something that both head coaches had never seen done in a game before.

“I’ve been coaching baseball for the past 19 years and I’ve never seen a team hit three leadoff triples in a game before,” Woods said. “All three of those balls were crushed and a couple of them probably would’ve gone over the outfield fence at our field.”

Gaughan leadoff the top of the first inning by blasting a triple to deep left field.

“That was my first triple of the season,” Gaughan said. “We hit the ball very well in tonight’s game.”

Gaughan scored the game’s first run with one out on a sacrifice fly to right field junior Raymond Toth, who was the Rams starting shortstop.

Raymond and his twin brother Michael, who’s a junior catcher, transferred to Granby High School from Williston.

“Adding those two players to our team this year has been huge for us,” Woods said. “Michael does a good job as our starting catcher and Raymond controls things up the middle. He can also pitch. They’re also good hitters.”

Michael Toth has verbally committed to play baseball at UMass-Amherst in a couple of years.

With one-out in the bottom of the first inning, Smith drew a walk and went to second on a tapper in front of the plate by senior first baseman Dillon Slattery. Gaughan ended that threat with a strikeout.

Kennedy (2-for-3), who started at first base, belted a triple to right field leading off the second inning. He was tagged out by Ware freshman catcher Dylan Sutkaitis trying to score on a ground ball to third base Asselin, who finished the game with two singles.

The Rams didn’t go down quietly in that frame. Senior center fielder Dylan Moriarty reached first base on a fielding error and sophomore leftfielder Daniel Gauvin (2-for-3) lined a RBI single to left driving home Asselin, who started at second base, with the Rams second run.

Raymond Toth (2-for-5) tripled to left field leading off the third inning and he crossed the plate on an RBI single by Sullivan.

Granby entered the bottom of the third inning holding a 5-0 lead following a sacrifice fly by Moriarty and another RBI single by Gauvin.

The Rams scored single runs in both the fourth and fifth innings. Both of those runs were driven home by Sullivan, who almost had his team’s fourth triple of the game in the fourth inning. He was tagged out by Ware junior third baseman Cam Balicki.

Ware freshman second baseman John Mumper ended Gaughan’s no-hit bid with a ground ball single past third base leading off the bottom of the fourth.

Two of the Indians other hits in the game



Right fielder Dan Gauvin makes at throw back to the infield.



Nolan Sullivan makes an off-balance throw.

were by junior left fielder Tyler Orszulak. Sophomore Owen Welsh, who was a pinch hitter in the fifth, and senior DH Aiden Clark also had base hits for the home team.

The Rams added three more runs in the top of the sixth. Sophomore left fielder Jonathan Santiago (2-for-4) knocked two of those runs by hitting a single into left.

Gaughan held the Indians at bay in the bottom half of the inning ending the ballgame a little bit early.



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June 5th at Chestnut Hill Field from 9 – 11 a.m.*

**Rain Date: Sunday, June 6th*

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- Free raffle drawing at 10:45 a.m.; don’t need to be present to win
- Lots of fun in the sun!!!

Current COVID guidelines will be followed. For any questions, please contact us at belchertownsoccer@gmail.com.

Check us out on Facebook or at our website at: www.belchertownsoccer.com

QUABBIN LEAGUE ACTION



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM
The Braves' Dave Warner makes a throw to first.

SOUTH HADLEY – The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League has gotten underway with the season beginning in early May. The league was shut down for the 2020 season due to the pandemic. Last Sunday, one of the games saw the Cardinals defeating the Braves 18-3. The league features six teams playing Sunday morning games each week.



Cardinals pitcher Gary Paradise delivers a pitch.



Braves pitcher Cam McCorison snaps off a curveball.



Anthony Maspo fields a grounder.

ROAD RACE • from page 12

SBLI Kids At-Home Challenge and the race's At-Home Edition, where participants will lace up their running shoes and go seven miles in their own neighborhoods between Aug. 7 to 14.

For nearly 50 years, Falmouth Road Race, Inc. has promoted health, wellness and pride in the community. In these

unprecedented and uncertain times, the organization is striving to be consistent in its mission, continuing to provide its dedicated athletes, enthusiasts, and the community with an event to be proud of and one that supports people in need.

For more information, or to register, visit www.falmouthroadrace.com. Follow us on Facebook or at @falmouthroadrace on Instagram.

OBITUARY

Rodney Brower



BELCHERTOWN- Rodney Christopher Brower, 73, passed away peacefully on May 25, 2021.



Rod was born in Manhattan, NY. A longtime resident of Caldwell, NJ, he graduated James Caldwell High School and enlisted in the Navy where he served as a Radio Operator during the Vietnam War. Following his honorable discharge, Rod worked at Goldman Sachs and later at Sullivan & Associates and ServiceNet.

Rod was a lifelong learner. Among his many passions was an appreciation of classical music, fine art, Shakespeare, acting, photography and history. He was also an avid Dodgers, Cleveland Browns, Lakers, and Syracuse basketball fan and enjoyed collecting sports memorabilia.

Rod is survived by his nephew Bryan Brower; niece Melodie Neilan and her husband Jared; great-nephews Owen and Elliot and sister-in-law Kathleen Brower.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Lillian (Zimmerman) and brothers, Alan and Glenn.

A memorial service at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Upper Montclair, NJ will be held at a later date. Please visit www.beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

VACANCIES • from page 7

District which are visible from any public street, public way or public park. The deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on June 25.

Personnel Board: Belchertown's Personnel Board has an opening that the town would like to fill as soon as possible. As a member of the Personnel Board, you will meet once or twice a year to assist in the administration of the town's personnel system by interpreting and providing advice on the town's Personnel By-law. Volunteers with legal and/or human resource experience would be a great fit for this position. If interested in serving, send a letter of interest to the Town Moderator: Amanda Halperin c/o Town Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 629, Belchertown, MA 01007 or email Amanda at afhalperin@gmail.com.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Associate Member: The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for special permits, variances and appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/ Building Inspector. The deadline has been extended to 12 p.m. on June 25.

DEATH NOTICE

Rodney Christopher Brower
Died May 25, 2021
Memorial Service to be held at later date


The Sentinel OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40 (Wetlands Protection Act) and the Belchertown Wetland Bylaw, the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing virtually on **Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM**. The purpose of this meeting is to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability for the proposed filtration of existing sand beach at 21 Town Beach Road**, Map 102 Parcel 77. Anyone interested in this matter should attend remotely: <https://www.gotomeet.me/BelchertownConservation> 06/03/2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SNOW'S SELF

STORAGE LLC, will sell at Public Auction at 746 Bay Road, Belchertown, MA, all the personal property stored in its facility by:

Tanner Gregory – RB7

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06/03, 06/10/2021

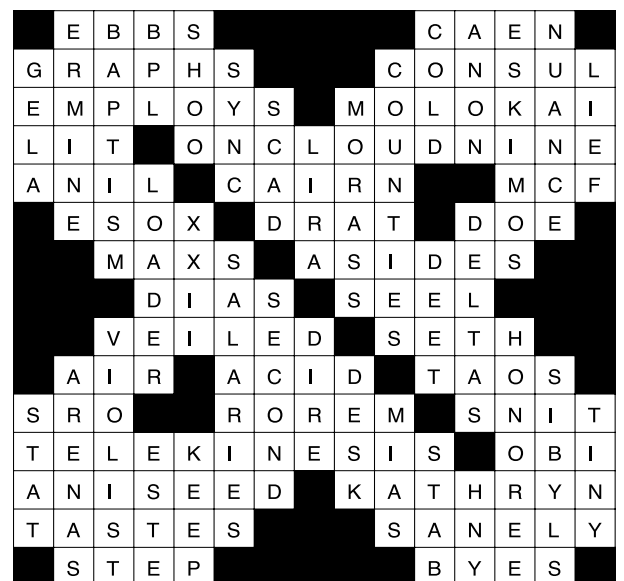
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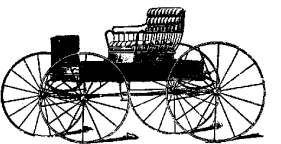
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29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00	31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00	35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
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HELP WANTED

LIBRARY DIRECTOR: The New Braintree Public Library is seeking a Library Director to lead our small library's growth in new and engaging services for our community. The Library Director is responsible for all phases of Library operations, working 10 - 15.5 hours a week with some evening and Saturday hours. Requirements: BA or BS or ALA accredited MLS or MLIS. If no ALA accreditation, State Certification of Librarianship from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners or willingness to obtain said certification, familiarity with C/W MARS, strong communication and IT/technical skills, enthusiasm, and self-motivation, an appreciation of the role the library plays in a community, and an enjoyment of people of all ages. The selected candidate will be expected to attend training workshops on library skills and Board of Trustees meetings. Send letter of application, resume, and three work-related references to Christine Maio, Trustee Chair, New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531 by June 21, 2021.

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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